

Brixworth Remembers

Remembrance Sunday is always a poignant moment in Brixworth's annual calendar of events. Being the 100th anniversary of the poppy appeal, local organizer Eddie Edmunds pulled out all the stops to make sure Brixworth gave a fitting tribute.

Even the trees at the church yard joined in: several observers noted that as the names of the Fallen were read out, the leaves started falling from the trees,

only to stop at the end of the tribute. Eddie's efforts received a huge thank you online, with dozens of people thanking Eddie personally for his hard work in organizing and putting up the decorations, planning the events, and selling the poppies in the Co-op ahead of the event.



Thank you, Eddie – and thank you everyone in and around Brixworth who attended the parade, service, or contributed in another way. You did us proud. – *Claudia Flavell-White*



Photo by Ian Topham

Thank you, Brixworth Covid-19 Help Group

It has been one year and nine months since the Covid-19 Help Group started. I had no idea how long this would go on for, and I definitely had no idea how much the village would rally to the call for help. Nor had I any idea how much time it would take and I am so grateful that Jonathan Harris and Christine Ware stepping in to shoulder much of the admin burden.

You frequently brought me to tears with the generosity in both time and donations made to help others. You made it possible to ensure the village was covered, with every household having a contact to ask for help during the lockdowns, before we went in to the first lockdown. Within two weeks, every street had a Street Champion, or in some cases more than one, to coordinate help. You set up street WhatsApp groups and you were helping those who were shielding, with shopping, posting things, collecting prescriptions and much more, within days of the 23rd March 2020.

As the weeks went on and the government were slow to catch up, you helped with food boxes and even had a food drive so the food boxes could be supplemented.

Then we had the fabulous Kath Cockerill and April Jones, who provided hot food for those in real need in the village, supported by Troops and a local anonymous donor.

You drew games on the pavement, donned fancy dress and ran in the street and, did window treasure hunts to entertain the children. You provided help with homeschooling and ideas to stave off boredom. Many of you just went to talk to those on their own, who wanted to see a friendly face and have a chat.

You continued to help in the subsequent lockdowns, helping those in need, isolating and shielding.

If I haven't said already, thank you to all of you who volunteered, no matter how much you did - Thank you! You made it possible to know there was someone in the village who would help, if asked.

We are nearly two years on and I genuinely hope, looking at the back of this difficult time, we can take something forward. Maybe the Northamptonshire Good Neighbours Project run by the Northamptonshire ARCE is something the village might consider.

With the fantastic roll out and uptake of vaccination, the booster program well underway, things are looking positive. I know we had hoped to plan something this summer gone, to thank you all, remember those we lost and plan for a brighter future. Maybe this coming summer might offer a better opportunity.

Until then, please get vaccinated if you haven't already, get your booster, have a wonderful Christmas and stay safe. – LD

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Visit www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk, join us
on Facebook or follow @BrixBulletin on
Twitter.



Views of Brixworth you might not have seen

Brixworth residents Vernon Salmon and Sean Goodhart have been working on a project to create video postcards of the village and surrounding countryside. Vernon is editing the video clips that Sean has been capturing over the last year.

The videos are set to new music from Maarten Schellekens and are themed around the different areas of the village, with two now available on their YouTube channel

Search BrixworthScenes on YouTube or enter <https://bit.ly/2Z44yOk> in your favourite browser to find their work. – Vernon Salmon and Sean Goodhart

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Brixworth History Society

We were treated to a really good talk by Ruth Thomas in October on *Faith at the Front in World War I*. The life of the chaplains of multiple faiths included, amongst many other things, letter writing on behalf of soldiers (sometimes their dying words) and stretchers bearing and helping medical staff. Many lost their lives even as non-combatants.

On the 16th December, Covid permitting, we will have a Christmas Social.

A full, diverse programme is in place for 2022, starting with the AGM and a talk on *Wonderful Amy the Aviator* on the 20th January.

William Boteler, who was in charge of Northampton during Cromwell's protectorate, is the subject of our next meeting on the 17th February.

The month after we're looking forward to a talk on Bletchley Park, which will take place on 17th March.

– Chris Knowles

Work on Red Lion site started, then stopped

The long-running saga of the former Red Lion pub has taken a decisive next step with the demolition of the empty building. While the rubble was quickly removed, work to further prepare the site for the construction of the new Co-op store is temporarily on hold – the Bulletin is told this is to allow clarification of some boundary issues with neighbouring buildings.

Once those are resolved, the next steps will be to demolish some outbuildings and construct a retaining wall.

Meanwhile, the question around the location and use time of the proposed loading bay remained unresolved when the Bulletin went to press, though sources told us that a decision was expected imminently.

The proposal for the loading bay was amended slightly before the start of the public consultation on 2 September. The Co-op reduced the timing of the proposed parking limitation, during which the bay would be reserved for deliveries, from 7am - 5pm to 7am - 12 noon. – cfw

Christmas wine tasting at Lampport



Following their success with cream teas in the summer Lampport and Hanging Houghton

residents are organising a festive wine tasting evening at Lampport Hall, in aid of Lampport Church.

Brigg Ferrier, senior wine advisor with Laithwaite's Wines, will be presenting a selection of seven different wines just in time for Christmas. It promises to be a fun evening, all in the delightful surroundings of Lampport Hall. The event will take place on Friday 3 December, starting at 7pm.

Tickets cost £17.50, to include a light supper, and are available from Margaret Westley (07808 331409), Cathy Dugmore (07900 553859) and Susie Wood (07803 195005).



Brixworth Bonfire Night lights up the reservoir

Lighting up the sky over the reservoir on Friday 5 November was a fireworks show organised at The Old Woodyard. It was the first organised bonfire event in Brixworth for as long as the Bulletin's editor can remember and drew in many visitors from the village as well as further afield.

It was also only the second event hosted as The Old Woodyard, alongside the 508 bypass, which describes itself as 'a new outdoor dining experience at a working vineyard on the edge of Pitsford Reservoir'.

Billed as 'fireworks for foodies', the event involved flame-grilled gourmet burgers, cocktails, freshly-cooked brownies and a live cooking demo by Dining with Dec.

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Northampton & Lamport Railway are getting into the festive spirit with this year's NLR Santa Season.

Santa Specials run on all Saturdays and Sunday from 28th Nov to 19th December. All tickets include a meet with Santa, a present for children and complementary on-train refreshments for all. You can further upgrade your experience with the Children's Activity Bundle, which includes crafts and games.

Our 'Platform 3 Buffet' will be open throughout, serving hot and cold drinks, snacks and freshly prepared hot food.

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Breakfast with Santa

NEW for 2021, available 11th, 12th, 18th and 19th December only. Treat yourself to a VIP Christmas experience by joining Santa for breakfast! This is a small intimate experience with a maximum of four groups of up to four people each day.

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- Visit Santa's Workshop where you see Santa again and children receive a present
- Children's Activity bundle (make your own cracker and painting station)

Carer's Drop in sessions

Northamptonshire Carers are running drop-in sessions for carers and the cared for on the first Tuesday of every month at Saxon Spires surgery.

Sessions alternative between Brixworth and Guilsborough. The next session will be on Tuesday 7th December at Guilsborough Surgery, 1.30pm - 3pm. There will be refreshments available and Carers Association staff will be present to give advice and support.

For further information, contact kayg@northamptonshire-carers.org or phone 01933 677907



Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group

The SSPPG are a group of patients that work with the Practice to make it the best it can be. We always welcome new members to our Group. Our meetings are held every two months, alternating between both surgeries. The next SSPPG Meeting will be on Wednesday 8th December at Guilsborough Surgery, 6.30pm.

For more information about the SSPPG contact the Secretary, Barbara Hogg on 01604 880552 or email hoggbc66@gmail.com. There is more information about our meetings and events, on the Saxon Spires website and on the SSPPG Facebook page.

A tribute to 1st Scaldwell Guides

The 1st Scaldwell Guides, which under Jill Gunnett's leadership were the local Guides group for several decades, folded earlier this year because there were no new Leaders to take over. Emily Johnson joined the 1st Scaldwell Guides at the age of 12 and remained engaged, first as a Guide and later as a Leader, until she had to move to go to university.



Girlguiding is a fantastic opportunity for young women to gain confidence, life skills, and handle responsibilities in a fun, welcoming environment. Jill taught a great number of girls confidence, leadership responsibilities, and to take pride in their actions and creations. I joined when I was 12, and, enjoying my time so much, Jill invited me to become a young leader, and complete my leadership

qualification under her guidance, and the guidance of the other members of the Unit.

There are a great many life skills the girls picked up with guides, such as cooking (Chocolate badge always sticks to mind), sewing, or staying away at camp for the first time. More than this, many girls learned how to strike a match with Jill, flip a pancake, learn



Memories of the Guides: Making Easter Bonnets in 2011, celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, and illustrating the scale of our plastics problem in February 2020, in what will have been one of the last physical meetings of the group.

orienteeing skills, archery, and to tie knots with the unit. Jill and the team gave young women the encouragement and time to become independent, and to discover their potential. I am very proud of my time with the unit, and I hope to continue guiding in some capacity after my studies. I am thankful to Jill and the team for their commitment and dedication to guiding, they made a great difference to the lives of many, I am sure. – Emily Johnson



Brixworth Art Group – space available

Brixworth has an active art group which meets every week from 10am to 12 noon at the Brixworth Community Centre. The group is open to members of all ages and abilities. Spaces are available for two members to join the Monday session, starting in the new year. Anyone interested is also very welcome to attend on a trial basis.

The cost is currently £70 for a ten-week term. If interested, please phone 01604 494160.

Winter Shopping Fair at the Library

Friends of Brixworth Library are hosting a Winter Shopping Fair at Brixworth Community Centre and Library on Saturday 4 December, 10am – 2pm. There will be stands of goods from small local businesses, a storytelling Christmas elf, and seasonable serenading by the u3a choir.

For more details, visit FOBXL on Facebook.

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Co-op community fund helps local causes

The Co-op Local Community Fund has chosen Rural Northants Community Responders (*bottom right*), Homegrown Care Farm (*top right*) and Brixworth Wombles (*below*) as the local causes it will fund for the next year until October 2022.

The last 18 months have been really challenging for small, charitable groups. The pandemic has drastically affected fundraising efforts, so the partnership with our local Co-op can make a real difference.

When members buy selected Co-op branded products and services, 1p from every pound spent goes to support the selected local causes. You can also donate your own personal rewards balance. The amount raised depends entirely on the amount of customers

choosing their cause and using their membership card. Last year, the causes raised around £6,000 between them but with awareness of membership increasing, we hope the amount donated to causes does too!

Rural Northants Community Responders work with East Midlands Ambulance Service to



quickly respond to health emergencies in the local area. Often first responders are the first people to attend, providing life-saving assistance even before the ambulance arrives.

Homegrown Care Farm, based at Spratton, helps people with special educational needs learn new skills and gain experience in animal care, horticulture, building their confidence and independence.

Brixworth Wombles are a local litterpicking group which has made a huge difference to Brixworth and

surrounding areas by keeping road verges and laybys litter-free.

The Co-op chooses new causes every 12 months, based on applications received from the local area. Applications will next open in spring 2022. Projects must benefit the local community. Many are from charities or local community groups but any organisation that is not run for private profit is eligible. For more



information on how to apply or put a cause forward for the next round of funding, visit causes.coop.co.uk

We really hope that people will visit the Co-op website or download the Co-op app and select their Local Community Fund cause so the groups can continue making a difference in our local area. – *Jasmine Kovacs, Co-op Member Pioneer, Brixworth*

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Carter Jonas

Brixworth and Scaldwell Scouts need more help!



Our fantastic team of volunteers from all sorts of backgrounds help to run the group for our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, but we have reached a critical point. Urgent help is needed. We need more leaders and administrative support if we are to continue.

More volunteers

Without more leaders to organise and run sessions week-on-week or executive members to help with admin activities Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts will not be able to operate. If we do not have enough leaders we will not be able to run the sessions each week. Potentially we will have to close a section.

This would be a real shame!

We resumed face-to-face sessions with outdoor activities for the end of the summer term, and we have restarted the autumn term with a full programme. It is wonderful to see



so many scouts back in each section and to see regular attendance.

A visit from Icarus was just one of the highlights in the **Beavers and Cubs**

programme this term. They were so lucky to see a variety of amazing birds of prey.... There was audible 'gasp' as the golden eagle demonstrated its impressive wing span!

The **Scouts** have also been busy, hiking across the fields, and taking part in

outdoor cooking activities.

What do your children get from being in the Scouts?

- Making new friends
- Developing independence
- Growing confidence
- Team work skills
- Developing responsibility
- Managing risk but most of all
- HAVING FUN!

Why not become a leader and be part of making this happen for our future generation?

Commitment is flexible to fit around the amount of time that each volunteer is able to give, and full training provided. If you would like to join our leadership and exec team please contact gsl@brixworthscouts.org.uk or enquiries@brixworthscouts.org.uk.



We'll help you to find a role that you'll enjoy, that will also really make a difference to the young people in our village. We look forward to hearing from you.

– Bob Pickles, Group Scout Leader

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Poppy anniversary

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This year being the 100th anniversary of the Royal British Legion's poppy appeal, we wanted to make a real splash for Brixworth. A few ideas started forming, which in time started to become reality with the help of various companies, councils and individuals.

Firstly, the war memorial looked a bit neglected and needed a clean. Peter Rowbotham, the Parish Council clerk, was happy to help and soon got an agreeable quote for the work. Jem Greener of Greener Grave Care was the man for the job, while Steve Wood of SW Scaffolding supplied the scaffolding free of charge. Huge thanks to these guys for getting a cracking job done!

During the lockdown last Christmas, I put a call out to anyone who could knit poppies for a cascade on the pond (opposite the Coach and Horses). The response was amazing – there were poppies everywhere and husbands moaning about clickety click all night. Thank you ladies, and thanks also to the ladies at central sports club for putting them on the nets.

After Tommy was vandalized earlier this year and kindly repaired, he needed a new base. With help from Phil Regar and my son Chris, Tommy now has a poppy surround.

The most ambitious idea was to have 56 Tommies, each 4ft tall, dotted around the



Photos by Ian Topham

Appeal special

village with the names of one of the Fallen on each one. Logistics didn't work on that, but Peter Rowbotham suggested a much more feasible alternative - white crosses like Market Harborough have. Craig, Julie and Phil at Crane Plastics generously made and donated them to the village. Thanks to Paul Cockerill for installing them in the memorial garden behind Tommy, Kath Cockerill for painting Tommys poppy, and thank you also to Phil Leeson for Barbed Wire Bob.

The last idea was the hardest to achieve. As a scooter rider I wanted to get motorcycles and scooters riding together for a common cause. It was decided to do this to launch the poppy appeal and ride from Brixworth to the war memorial on Wood Hill Northampton where a wreath could be laid.

After communications with Northampton Council, police and the Royal British Legion, this went ahead on 31st October as part of the launch of Northamptonshires Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. It's a massive honour.

I know how everyone likes the lamppost poppies. The Parish Council generously funded 60 more, allowing me to put them on all the main roads where possible.

Thank you everyone for your amazing support, Brixworth will never forget. – Eddie Edmunds, POA Brixworth

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Community Foodshare

Our village Family Foodshare project continues to receive support both with donated food items and money from generous Olive Branch customers. Together with funds from the Parish Council and the Community Church, we were able to follow the summer holiday family support with gifts of half-term food boxes to local families. Brixworth Co-op and Troops have been very generous too. We are



now working with the local Health Visitor as well as the Primary School to identify those needing support.

We plan to extend our giving over the Christmas holiday period, and the Olive Branch Community

Coffee Shop is able to receive cash donations and from December will gratefully receive grocery items. Thank you all those who have donated, your gifts will be well used in our community.

– Elaine Coe and Mike Nice

Cottesbrooke

Residents of – and visitors to – the neighboring village of Creaton were treated to a late summer display of poppies and other wildflowers, which was hugely appreciated by all who witnessed it.

The wildflower verge was all around the playing fields on the northern edge of Creaton. It was created by the managers of Cottesbrooke Estate, which owns the land. In a notice displayed around the wildflower meadow, the estate says:

“We are delighted that you are enjoying these flowers around the playing field, It is part of a much larger environmental stewardship scheme that the estate is doing with Natural England.

“One of the drivers of the scheme is to improve and create habitat. These flowers are there to encourage butterflies, bees and other pollinators and provide foraging sites for farmland birds.

“In the adjacent fields, you will see crops for winter feeding of farmland birds. Some of these surround the playing field and run down to the sewerage bed and will provide an important seed source in the lean winter months. There are many more similar plots elsewhere on the estate.

“Also there are around 120km of hedgerows and headlands – all good for pollinators and birds.

“Of course the poppies, the field scabious, the yarrow, the ox eye daisies and the other wild flowers will soon disappear but they will have served their purpose helping bees and other pollinators. But above all they will have provided a little joy after the last 18 months.

Enjoy them while you can – the Cottesbrooke Estate.”

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Friends of Brixworth Church: Christmas Concert

The Friends of Brixworth Church are delighted to be hosting a Christmas Concert featuring the Queen Eleanor Community Choir.

The concert will take place on Saturday, 11 December, at All Saints Church, Brixworth. Start is at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10.00 (£6.00 for children 12 years and under) and include refreshments. To order yours, email Brixworthchurchfriends@gmail.com or phone 01604 881810. – Kate Knight

wows with wild flower meadow



Photo by Ian Topham

Grants for young people in Brixworth and Scaldwell

Many families have found things challenging during the Covid 19 pandemic and continue to do so. A small cash grant for educational purposes may help those in need during this difficult time.

The Foundation of Thomas Roe provides small cash grants for young people, under 25, who live in the parishes of Brixworth or Scaldwell.

Grants have previously been provided to support the cost of things such as school uniform; books and course materials; musical instruments; computer equipment; and travel expenses linked to education, including school trips.

Application forms can be downloaded from Brixworth and Scaldwell Parish Council web sites or from the Clerk at thomasroefoundation@gmail.com

Completed application forms must be returned to the Clerk, preferably by email and in Word format, by midnight on 9 March 2022 for consideration at the charity's next meeting. This meeting where grant applications will be considered is scheduled for 23 March 2022.





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Halloween spooktacular!

It seems the ghost and gremlins were out in force ahead of this year's Halloween, transforming the historic part of the Brixworth into a scary monster playground.

Were the ghoulies perhaps helped by the children and helpers of the Brixworth Centre Pre-School? Some of the evidence left behind at the scene would suggest so, but we cannot be sure.

In any case, the spooky scenes and monstrous visitations brought many a wry smile to everyone – thank you!

Photos, clockwise from top left: A ghost and a hooded stranger enjoying a feast of extra-bloody spaghetti, outside the Coach & Horses; The Wicked Witch of the West finally gets her come-uppance in a grit bin; a googlie-eyed ghoul putting his skeleton friends in the stocks, and a huge spider roaming around the now-demolished Red Lion.

All photos courtesy of Ian Topham.



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Queen's Birthday Honours for Brixworth resident

An interview with Lisa Wainwright MBE

On 14th May 2021, as the country was starting to get back to 'normal' after yet another lockdown, it was just an ordinary day for Brixworth resident Lisa Wainwright – until she checked her email inbox.

In amongst all her other correspondence, was an email from The Cabinet Office. Upon first opening it, Lisa thought they were asking her to support a nomination for somebody else but, upon closer reading, it soon became clear that it was Lisa herself who had been awarded an MBE - Member of the Order of the British Empire.

After the initial shock, she remembers feeling 'honoured that someone had nominated me' – but also curious. The original email made no mention of why she had been given the award or who had nominated her. Later on, she discovered that it was for her work in improving the safeguarding of children in sport; although she still has no idea who nominated her.

Lisa's trailblazing work in this area started back in 1999 when, working at England



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Netball, she developed a duty of care policy to protect young players involved in the sport, which was then taken up by many other sports. This was at a time when child protection was in its infancy and the UK didn't even have a central data base for checking the backgrounds of those working with the young and vulnerable. The CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) was only established by the Home Office in 2002, largely in the wake of the horrific murders of the schoolgirls Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman.

Lisa recalls the days when it used to be acceptable for 'coaches to take individual children to sporting events in their own cars, completely unchaperoned'. Safeguarding is a particular area of concern in 'early

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specialisation' sports, such as gymnastics, where young children participate at a national and international level, spending long periods away from home.

Everybody is aware of high-profile cases such as Jimmy Saville, but Lisa draws attention to the fact that good safeguarding policies shouldn't just focus on protecting children from sexual predators, as physical and mental abuse can be just as harmful. Lisa is now CEO of the Sport and Recreation Alliance where she has developed the ClubMark award and advises grassroots sports clubs across the board. There is now a safeguarding lead for every governing body in sport, ensuring that there are safeguarding policies and training in place at every level.

The Bulletin first interviewed Lisa back in 2012, when she was working with Volleyball England and heavily involved in the preparations for the London Olympics. Nearly ten years on, she believes that the Olympics created a great 'legacy of participation' in the UK but is disappointed that, in the aftermath of the pandemic, there has been a decrease in the participation of girls, women and those with disabilities in grassroots sport. Lisa hopes this is only temporary and was delighted when her daughter's school started an extra-curricular beach volley club making use of the National Volleyball Centre in Kettering.

In 2012, Lisa had just moved to Brixworth and was looking forward to settling here. Without hesitation, she says how much her and her family love living here and how lockdown in particular made them appreciate that it is 'a great place to be'. Since her previous interview, Lisa has fought breast cancer and recently recovered from a complicated gallbladder operation, so she also wished to express her gratitude to the staff at Saxon Spires who gave her such tremendous support. She regrets that her busy career doesn't leave her time to get more involved in village life, but she is very impressed by the evident community spirit in Brixworth and reads the Bulletin from 'cover to cover'.

Lisa's investiture, when she hopes to meet the Queen, has been postponed due to a covid backlog but, when her special day arrives, we hope that she will share a photo with us for a future issue of the Bulletin.

– Tracey Calnan



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Country Eye

Bedding down for winter

I write this with the much-hyped convocation of the great and the good in Glasgow just a few days hence, so I have no way of knowing what the outcome will be. Maybe with six decades of pleading for change behind me, my jaded old brain is warning me not to hold my breath. Let's pray I am wrong. I would be delighted to have to admit it.

Meanwhile in the real world autumn is truly upon us with the first of the winter storms crashing through, lashing the lime trees into shedding the first real bulk of spent leaves, groaning loudly as they do so. I will let them lie until the bulk of them are on the ground before getting busy raking them off the lawn for the compost bin. On the growing beds they are left to rot down over winter providing humus and also suppressing any weeds. Removing them from the lawn helps starve the grasses in favour of wild flowers as part of my attempt at wilding.

As the last of our summer resident migrant birds depart southwards the winter ones are pouring in. Arriving blackbirds and song thrushes that breed on the continent are less visible among our own birds. Their arrival is marked with an audible increase in chasing and jousting on the lawn as the newcomers seek their place among the locals.

This year has seen a bumper crop of haws as the dull, dark red fruits of the hawthorn are known. Even so they will most likely be cleared by the year's end. Fieldfares announce their arrival with their loud chattering calls, while redwings can often be spotted among them as they all crowd along the hedgerows busily scoffing the autumn berry harvest. Their long journey over land and sea takes a heavy toll on them and many will have failed to make it. All of the body fat piled on as fuel for the journey will have been burned up. This needs to be replaced and they also need to build up reserves to carry them through the winter.



Finding food gets harder along the hard road towards spring. The days grow shorter and life becomes a constant struggle to find enough to eat. Every waking second must be spent on this quest. When the berries are gone they probe the soft ground and sift the leaf litter for worms and snails and other invertebrates. A series of hard frosts or snowfall can lock away most of their food and then they turn to searching along the margins of flowing streams. Or under hedges and in scrubby woodland where they look for the few fallen berries that were missed first time around.

A long cold spell exhausts the food supply and then roving bands will head off to the south-west in the hope of finding open ground and milder conditions. Our milder weather these days means there is less need for them to move around. I remember the hard winter of 1963 when birds fell dead out of the sky. I found an emaciated skylark on my doorstep which died even as I tried to warm it up.

Autumn and winter, and the stress of a lengthy migration demand such a heavy toll that only the very fittest birds will survive to breed the following year. If we take the redwing as an example, if a pair are very lucky they may raise two broods of young in a good season. With four young reared from each that would give us ten birds counting the parents. If all survived to breed, we would soon be up to our necks in redwings. The reality is eight will have died long before that so that the population stays stable year on year. And that is the measure of the mortality that occurs as of routine out there in the real world.

And that raises another question. Why isn't the countryside littered with the corpses of dead birds? Answer next time. – *Brian Webster*

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Picking the right letting agent

If you're a new or inexperienced landlord, or don't have the time to manage your property, then it may be time to consider hiring a lettings agent to manage the property for you.

But how can you ensure you've found the right one?

Ask for recommendations

If you know someone who rents out their properties nearby, then ask who they use, and whether they would recommend them. There may even be a referral bonus for both parties.

Check they are regulated

This is essential if you're going to pick the right lettings agent and avoid cowboys. You'll want to choose a lettings agent that's registered with the Property Ombudsman and one that's a member of the National Approved Letting Scheme (NALS), or the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA).

Compare fees

You don't have to pick the first lettings agent you find, so compare a few.

It's not always a good idea to just go with the cheapest. Check what's covered to avoid getting stung with hidden charges.

Check for reviews

Websites have reviews from both landlords and tenants, so you can get a good idea of each agent from both sides. Just because other landlords are happy, it doesn't mean the tenants are. Unhappy tenants won't use that agency again, even if they like your property.

Decide what you need

Which agent is best may depend on what services you require. For example, are you looking for an agent that just finds a tenant and sets up the initial contract, leaving you to manage the property once they're in situ?

Or are you looking for a lettings agent that takes care of full property management, including complaints and maintenance?

Deciding what level of service you want can be key, especially if you don't live close by.

Check their money protection

All lettings' agents are legally required to hold tenants' deposits in a government-approved tenancy deposit scheme.

They are also required to be a member of a client money protection scheme (CMP). They'll need to have a certificate confirming this, which is displayed prominently in their offices and on their website. If it's not visible then ask to see it, and if they don't have one then it's a huge red flag.

Ask about their marketing

Find out which property sites they advertise on and do some research yourself. A quick search on the big two, Zoopla and Rightmove, will help you to get an idea of how well they market their properties, and how successful they are at renting them out efficiently.

Look for things like photos and descriptions. Have the photos been taken professionally? Are the descriptions well written and error free? An agent that takes blurred pictures and makes sloppy spelling errors isn't likely to be the best one you can find!

Build a relationship

The relationship between the lettings agent and you, as their client is a very important one. It will hopefully be for the long-term.

Therefore, it's worth finding out if they're a company you'll want to do business with in the long-term. There's no point choosing an agency you don't trust and can't get hold of just because they're the cheapest option.

Find out when their opening hours are.

How often do they carry out inspections and which tradespeople do they use?

Think about all the potential issues that could arise and make sure you're happy with the answers.

And finally, check what the notice period is, just in case you do decide to leave them and go with another agency in future.

– Stuart Little



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Library launches Business Centre

The Brixworth Library Business and Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) Northamptonshire formally launched in November 2021.

The BIPC Northamptonshire provides entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises across the UK with free access to databases, market research, journals, directories and reports worth thousands of pounds. There is also a programme of free events and workshops on a range of topics including business planning, marketing, and intellectual property.

So, if you would like one-to-one business advice, access to market research databases, webinars, or intellectual property advice, all for free... then visit your local library or contact BIPC Northamptonshire to find out more.

Website: www.bipcnorthamptonshire.co.uk

Email: bipc@westnorthants.gov.uk

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Supporting Independence Programme (SIP)

- Have you noticed any recent changes in your health?
- Do you have difficulties walking or need help moving about?
- Are everyday tasks such as shopping becoming more difficult?
- Do you need someone to help you on

a regular basis?

- When you need help, do you sometimes feel lonely or isolated?



The Supporting Independence Programme provides up to 12 weeks of one-to-one support for those of us who may have slowed a little, are feeling less confident getting around or who need someone to help on a regular basis. This could be supporting you to increase your levels of physical activity, helping you to access medication reviews or providing emotional or nutritional support and advice. Support can be over the phone or face-to-face, and there are regular appointments available at Brixworth Library.

To access this service, please complete the eligibility assessment on www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/sip. Our admin team will contact you within two working days to arrange an initial appointment. You can phone the team on 0300 126 7000 from 8am to 6pm, Mondays to Fridays, or email SIP.NCCinfo@northnorthants.gov.uk

Children's Events

Free, term-time activities for under 5s. All sessions are drop-in although numbers are limited. Please arrive in good time to secure your place.

- Rhyme Time - Wednesdays 10-10:30am and 11-11:30am – singing with scarves, puppets, and instruments.
- Explore a Story - Thursdays 10:00-



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10:45 - story followed by craft or themed activity.

- Pre-School Play - Fridays 10:00-11:00 - child-led play with toys for all ages.

During weekends and school holidays we also run activities for older children.

- Saturday Club - Saturdays 11am-1pm - Crafts, games, quizzes, scavenger hunts...a different activity every week. 50p donation | drop-in | 4-12yrs (under 8s must be accompanied).

To find out what's happening next half-term (including booking information) visit our events page on Facebook: www.facebook.com/BrixworthLibrary/events or events calendar: www.northampton.gov.uk/eventscalendar.

Library to You

If you've been struggling to get to us recently, because of ill health or disability, we can bring the library to you. We have volunteers who will hand-pick items based on your tastes and deliver them to you in your own home all for free! If you are interested in this service or would like more information, please call 0300 126 7000 and ask for Brixworth Library.

IT Buddy

Looking to build your computer confidence? Then why not book a free 1:1 session with Ian our friendly IT Buddy? Recently Ian has helped our customers; set up their new smart phone, transfer files and photos onto a new tablet, and reset passwords after their laptop locked them out. If this is the sort of thing you would like a hand with, Ian can help. Bring along your device or hire a computer or Hublet. Just get in touch to make an appointment.

Brixworth Workbox

Thursdays 1:30-3pm

Brixworth Workbox is back in the library and is looking for new members. This budding craft group meets every week and welcomes expert and novice crafters alike. Whether you're a knitter, scrap-booker or indeed an 'anything-else-r' they'd love you to join them for a drink, a chat, and even a spot of crafting. Just bring along your current project.

Friends of Brixworth Library

After an extended break the Friends of Brixworth Library are back, and they have big plans!

Christmas Craft Fayre

On Saturday 4th December 10am-2pm the Friends are thrilled to be hosting their Winter Craft Fayre where all sorts of beautiful, local and handcrafted goods will be available to buy. It's the perfect opportunity to start (or finish!) your Christmas shopping, support small businesses, and really get into the festive spirit.

Quiz Night

In the new year (date to be announced) their ever-popular quiz will be back. This is always a sell-out event so make sure you're one of the first to know when tickets go on sale by following the Friends on Facebook: @FOBXL.

The Friends are always keen to welcome new members and fresh ideas. They would love to hear from you.

Email them at

friendsofbrixworthlibrary@gmail.com or follow them on Facebook.

Other Services

- Bus Pass and Blue Badge Applications



- MyHermes Parcel Shop
- Library Shop – cards, activity books and pocket-money toys
- Meeting Room and Mezzanine Floor Hire
- Printing and Photocopying
- Laminating
- Free Wi-Fi
- Computer, Tablet and Internet Access (free on Fridays)
- 'Northamptonshire Libraries' App – manage your account, renew and reserve items
- 'BorrowBox', 'Libby' and 'pressreader' - eReading Apps

Opening Times

The library is open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, and Saturdays 10am-2pm. It will be closed for the bank holidays from Saturday 25th to Tuesday 28th December and Friday 31st December to Monday 3rd January.

Contact Details

Email: brixworth.libraryplus@westnorthants.gov.uk

Phone: 0300 126 7000 [ask for Brixworth Library] (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)

Facebook: @BrixworthLibrary

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The Show and

“The Brixworth Bulletin might not quite be the New York Times, but residents still read it avidly and in many cases from cover to cover.”

I'm making my presentation at the 'show and tell' evening and a rolled up copy of the Bulletin is my 'show'. I'm 'telling' how writing for it has given me a sudden midlife buzz. The editor luckily welcomes new contributors. I write about Victor, (not his real name), who continually brings disaster to the village. While people generally like reading about themselves Victor revels in it, and likens his duality to a modern day Pimpernel.

And why am I telling you all this? Because it's an introduction. When I finish my presentation and receive polite applause, his is about to begin.

He's certainly gone all out and – well, whatever his 'show' object is, it's heavy enough to require a wheelbarrow to bring it into the semi-full Village Hall where the 'show and tell' evening is being held. No one takes undue notice because it's wrapped and hidden in sacking.

“Something from the allotment?” one of the other attendees asks. Which is possible because Victor is a plot holder at Creaton Road, and it could well be one of the giant vegetables he grows there. But then again most are very keen to keep their own item as mysterious as possible until the actual moment of reveal. Each of us is to give a small introductory talk and as with previous years it has already become hyper competitive. Victor trundles his barrow to the front, nods at me, and begins.

“It was match day Saturday 7th February 1970 at the county ground. Northampton Town, otherwise known as the Cobblers, are a lower league team playing Manchester United, the aristocratic cream of English football. The tie has been thrown up in the fifth round of the English FA cup and is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see some of the greatest players that ever lived. It's still talked about today and available on YouTube. The ground will be packed, and the town has talked about nothing else for weeks. Georgie Best is just coming back from a four week ban for kicking the ball out of a referees hand. It will end 8-2, with George scoring six and playing one of the best games of his legendary career.”

Up until then Victor is doing quite well; an iconic town moment; football, and his mystery 'show' still held in reserve. I had a funny feeling his effort would be the talk of the night. I was correct, but for the wrong reasons.

“Is that the match ball?” Someone asked. “Anyone could bring a ball and say it's the match ball.”

“It's not a football.” Victor said. “Any other guesses?” There weren't, so he carried on.

“Tickets have been at a premium and a fever has overtaken Northampton in wanting to attend the match. Those that can't go will listen on the radio, or else get the regular score updates from Dickie Davies on ITV's sport magazine programme, World Of Sport. Hardly a car, a person, or a blade of grass will stir in Northampton while that game is going on.”

Victor paused dramatically.

“Someone, and they never did find out who, got hold of a batch of over a hundred and fifty of the impossible-to-obtain tickets and handed them out with the abandon of confetti to lucky and unsuspecting recipients. Police officers got some; influential councillors got others; while staff at the town's museum did particularly well with all of them receiving two tickets each so that they could take along a 'plus one'.”



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Tell of the Brixworth Pimpernel

“Arrangements were duly made for the museum to close for the day so that everyone could attend the match. This was in keeping with many other places that shut. When the match kicked off a roar went up that could be heard across town. And just when George Best was closing in on his first fabulously dribbled goal two men in brown



The ancient Egyptian statue of Sekhemka, gifted to Northampton Museum around 1870, which was controversially sold in 2014.

cow gowns got out of an anonymous-looking Luton van parked at the front of the museum, opened it up using keys and took something heavy inside on a sack truck. It didn't take them very long to find what they were looking for.

“Two and a half feet tall, carved from limestone, brightly painted in vivid colours including a lot of gold and housed in its own glass and mahogany display case which was only slightly larger than the statue itself.....”

Astonishment swept the room. I had a sinking feeling. Someone said;

“Wait a minute, you're talking about the Northampton Sekhemka. Are you saying someone attempted to steal it?”

“Replaced it with an exact copy would be more precise.” Victor amended. I put my head in my hands as

the uproar and spluttered objections from all around began.

“Impossible. It sold at Christie's for nearly sixteen million in 2014.”

“They rebuilt Delapre Abbey and the museum with the proceeds.”

“Northampton got into so much trouble it became a national disgrace and laughing stock.”

“The papers called us philistines. The Egyptian government were outraged.”

And then, ominously one of our number who was also a police officer said: “What exactly is it you have in that wheelbarrow? Might I have to arrest you?”

“No,” said a foolishly confident Victor. “The statute of limitations means I can't be prosecuted.”

“That's American TV lore, not actual British law. If that's the Sekhemka statue in your wheelbarrow, you're nicked.”

This came as an evident shock to Victor. Everyone spoke at once.

“But what did they sell then?”

“They can't have sold a copy surely?”

And as this resonated someone else suggested:

“Can't you just let him go and forget that any of this happened?”

“Sixteen million and you expect a pass?”

Victor had sunk down in shock. He obviously hadn't considered that he could get into any trouble and was worried now because

he'd badly miscalculated. He looked mournfully at his wheelbarrow as the gravity of the situation began to dawn on him. He gave me, his Pimpernel recording scribe a frightened glance, and then began to cry. Softly at first, but then sobbing. No one likes a crybaby, and although he later claimed it was an act it appeared pretty convincing to me.

“But I was certain that after such a long time it would no longer matter.” He groaned. “Why was I so stupid?”

“Nobody touch anything. I'm calling this in,” the policeman said.

Twenty minutes later two police interceptors were outside the village hall with their blue lights flashing. Overhead the force's helicopter hovered. There was a delay because we then had to wait for a senior officer to arrive, and then a further delay while he took a phone call from the Home Secretary. The senior officer led Victor by the arm to take the sacking off the wheelbarrow.

To everyone's shock it was not a small Egyptian sandstone statue that was revealed. Instead it was a toy monkey that climbed a pole and flipped over that had once been in a shop window in Abingdon St for many years. Its purpose was to enchant children and draw parents to a display of shoes. Victor seemed as amazed as anyone else by this, but he brightened with relief immediately. He looked very shaken, but also, strangely puzzled.

“Couldn't you have uncovered it earlier and saved us all this fuss,” I hissed at him.

“I didn't know,” he hissed back as though it were all my fault. “They were both in storage wrapped side by side. I must have grabbed the wrong one.” – Clive McDonald

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Planning update

WND/2021/0118 & WND/2021/0128 Brixworth Hall Archway, Harborough Road Removal of trees within a conservation area	BPC supported WNC approved
WND/2021/0074 All Saints' Church, Church Street Fell tree within a conservation area	BPC supported WNC approved
DA/2021/0292 The Red Lion, Harborough Road Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission DA/2020/0054 to include repositioning of rear entrance door; addition of flat roof between east/west ridges; new retaining wall to west elevation; minor changes to landscaping; relocation of cycle stands	BPC supported WNC approved
WND/2021/0189 14, Shelleycotes Road Single storey rear extension and conversion of integral garage to habitable space	BPC supported WNC approved
WND/2021/0127 1, Juniper Thorn Single storey extension to front of dwelling	BPC supported WNC refused
WND/2021/0106 St David's Recreation Ground Provision of replacement outdoor play area, landscaping, safety surfacing and fencing.	BPC supported WNC approved
WND/2021/0051 Victors Barn, Northampton Road Variation of Condition 3 of planning permission	BPC supported WNC approved
WNNMA/2021/0014 Hill Farm Campsite, Northampton Rd Non material amendment to application DA/2011/0203 relating to the details of the yurt tents	BPC supported WNC approved
WND/2021/0475 Former Red Lion Site/Co-op Stores, Harborough Road Variation of condition 13 of planning permission DA/2020/0054 to allow premises to be open for customers between 0600-2300 Mondays - Sundays	Withdrawn
WND/2021/0266 Showroom, Saxon Fields, Northampton Road Retrospective planning permission for the construction of an open carport and alterations to the external materials of the existing car showroom	BPC supported WNC approved

Brixworth & District u3a

We were really pleased to return to the Village Hall for our monthly meeting on the 6th October. This was the first time we had met since the pandemic started and it was lovely to see our friends face to face once more. Our speaker was Gail Stuart, daughter of Eric Morecambe, who gave a very entertaining talk on "Life with my Father".



For their September meeting, the Garden Group visited Castor House near Peterborough (photo, above). It is an early 18th century stone manor house with rendered front built for the Bishops of Peterborough. The main gardens were extensively redesigned in 2010. The gardens are now open under the National Gardens Scheme.

The Ceili dance group have got back in full swing and as well as existing members returning, they welcomed many new members to the group. It's a good way of getting fit and enjoying a lot of fun.

The badminton and table tennis groups are also back playing.

The Christmas Lunch will be held this year on December 8th at the Northampton Golf Club, Harlestone. We have enjoyed many Christmas lunches there before Covid and it will be nice to get together again.

The December monthly meeting will be the AGM followed by "Three Songsters - John, Paul and George". Plenty of music with Andy Smith.

Our groups are now meeting and if you are interested in seeing what is available, please visit our website u3asites.org.uk/brixworth or come along to our monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at Brixworth Village Hall at 2.00pm. You are sure of a warm welcome. - Judy Smith



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What's on?

27/11	A Cheesemongers History of the British Isles	Lampport Hall
27/11	Northants Sings Out	Derngate
28/11	Tim Peake - My Journey To Space	Derngate
29/11	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
29/11	Marti Pellow - The Greatest Hits Tour	Derngate
30/11	Jimmy Carr: Terribly Funny	Derngate
01/12	UB40	Derngate
02/12	Joel Dommett - Unapologetic	Derngate
02/12	Nature Tots	Brixworth Country Park
03/12	Fishermens Friends	Derngate
03/12	Wine tasting evening	Lampport Hall
04/12	Christmas Market	Lampport Hall
04/12	Christmas Craft Fayre	Brixworth Library
05/12	Christmas Market	Lampport Hall
06/12	Natural Minds	Brixworth Country Park
08/12	Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group - Meeting	Guilborough Surgery
10/12	Music Before Christmas with Fiori Musicali	Lampport Hall
11/12	Christmas lecture- Dr Conny Bailey	Lampport Hall
11/12	Santa Special	Northampton and Lampport Railway
11/12	Friends of Brixworth Church: Christmas Concert	All Saints Church

12/12	Christmas Joules Seconds Sale	Lampport Hall
12/12	Breakfast with Santa	Northampton and Lampport Railway
12/12	Santa Special	Northampton and Lampport Railway
13/12	A Christmas Carol	Lampport Hall
16/12	Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
16/12	Brixworth History Society - Christmas Social Evening	Village Hall
16/12	Nature Tots	Brixworth Country Park
17-19/12	A Christmas Carol	Lampport Hall
18 & 19/12	Breakfast with Santa	Northampton and Lampport Railway
19/12	Outdoor Christmas Nativity 2021	Brixworth Library
20/12	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
03/01	Natural Minds	Brixworth Country Park
10/01	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
13/01	Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
16/01	Queen Extravaganza	Derngate
18/01	Rambert - Aisha And Abhaya	Derngate
19/01	Lampport and Hanging Houghton Parish Council	Lampport Hall
19/01	Rambert - Aisha And Abhaya	Derngate
20/01	Brixworth History Society - AGM & Amy the Aviator	Village Hall
23/01	Abba Mania	Derngate

24/01	One Night Of Elvis	Derngate
25/01	Steve Steinman and Vampires Rock	Derngate
27/01	Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
28/01	Anton and Erin - Showtime	Derngate
28/01	Ronan Keating	Derngate
31/01	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
31/01	Jason Fox: Life At The Limit	Derngate
06/02	RPO - Sir Karl Jenkins and The Armed Man	Derngate
07/02	Natural Minds	Brixworth Country Park
08/02	Stacey Dooley	Derngate
10/02	Katherine Ryan: Missus	Derngate
17/02	Brixworth History Society - William Boteler	Village Hall
21/02	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
22/02	Texas	Derngate
24/02	Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
07/03	Natural Minds	Brixworth Country Park
08/03	Midge Ure - Voice and Visions	Derngate
14/03	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
14/03	Harris and Bakers Backstage Pass	Derngate
15/03	Calling Planet Earth	Derngate
16/03	Lampport and Hanging Houghton Parish Council	Lampport Hall
17/03	Dr Hook Starring Dennis Locorriere	Derngate
17/03	Brixworth History Society - talk on Bletchley Park	Village Hall
18/03	Karen Hauer and Gorka Marquez: Firedance	Derngate
19/03	Johannes Radebe - Freedom	Derngate
20/03	Ed Gamble - Electric	Derngate
27/03	Stewart Lee: Snowflake / Tornado	Derngate
31/03	Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre

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Chairman's Chat

A look forward to coming months.

Brixworth and the Climate Emergency

How you could get involved to protect our planet.

What Can You Do?

How you can make a difference as an individual.

Community Safety

Updates on speeding and crime news.

Making Others Feel Safe

Things to consider when out and about.

The Return of Parish Council Surgeries

Meet your Councillors face-to-face.

New Councillor

Introducing our new Councillor.



Chairman's Chat



The Summer is well and truly behind us and we can now all enjoy the season of Hallowe'en, Guy Fawkes Night and Christmas. Of course the Parish Council supports the police's message of staying safe as outlined in articles written in these

pages and equally the Parish Council hopes that you enjoy the Christmas trees installed throughout the village

There are a number of community projects that we are hoping to finalise very shortly—the regeneration of St David's to include a new children's play area and a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)—both of which should be completed by Spring 2022.

The other project taking shape is improving the upper hall of the Library and Community Centre building, in order to not only improve conditions for activities already taking place but to also encourage new sports such as table tennis. These projects take a lot of time and effort by your Councillors to ensure that we are delivering a service that can be enjoyed by everyone but it is one of the reasons for becoming a Councillor.

As always, the Parish Council is here to listen and help, so please turn to our final page to find out how to contact us.

Community Grants

The Council was able to release more of a promised grant to Brixworth Community Food Share for its October half-term project. The money was used, along with donations from residents, to provide food boxes for vulnerable residents in our Community.

If your voluntary organisation would like to apply for a grant to help with its community activities and projects with the purpose of bringing direct benefit to the parish and its residents please download the "Grant Application Form" from the Parish Council website.



Brixworth and the Climate Emergency

In August 2021, Brixworth Parish Council agreed to declare a 'Climate Emergency', joining West Northamptonshire Council and a growing list of over 200 other Parish Councils in acknowledging the challenge facing us all.

The motion included a proposal to form a Brixworth Climate Action Group (BCAG) comprising both councillors and residents who will together develop a 'green agenda' and action plan for Brixworth.

Cllr Christine Ware who proposed the motion said, "We know for many people the Climate Emergency seems best filed on the 'Too Big To Handle' pile and they can't imagine what we as individuals—or the village collectively—can do to make a difference. Brixworth alone won't solve the world's problems but everybody can do their bit to help the environment. Put enough small changes together and large outcomes can occur".

You may have seen posters around the village or online, recruiting for the resident volunteers to join the BCAG. We hope that by the time the Brixworth Bulletin goes to press we will have already found some great volunteers and have held our first Zoom meeting. Don't worry if you missed that opportunity— if you care about the environment, have great experience or ideas—we still want to hear from you. The meetings are public and you will be very welcome.



Our aim is to develop a practical action plan that allows everyone to do something to positively impact the village and the wider world. So if you can turn your thermostat down a little, walk to the shops if you are able, start a compost heap, use water butts for your garden or reduce the amount of 'single use plastic' you buy, you will be helping.

What can you do?

- 1 Use your recycling bins for paper and card, plastic and cans and glass.
- 2 Regularly compost in your own garden if you can.
- 3 Minimise food waste by only buying what you need.
- 4 Take waste, such as textiles, batteries and small electricals, to the Waste Recycling Centre.
- 5 Return soft plastics to the special bin at the Co-op.
- 6 Use water butts at your allotment or garden to collect rain water for your plants.
- 7 Join the Brixworth Climate Action Group, or let them know your ideas.
- 8 Shop carefully; consider buying second-hand and avoid excess packaging.
- 9 Use public transport when you can.

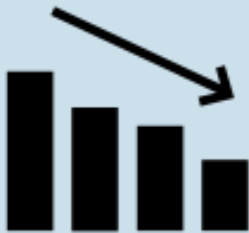


Speed Indicator Device



Recent speed data shows that most cars entering Brixworth on the Spratton Road drove at or below the 30 mph speed limit.

Crime Figures



This summer there were 23 reported crimes in Brixworth compared to 36 in 2019 and 32 in 2018.

Bonfire Safety



Last year, firefighters in Northamptonshire attended 12 firework and bonfire related incidents from November 1 to November 7 and Northamptonshire Police received 23 reports of incidents on Bonfire Night alone .

Making Others Feel Safe

In the light of recent highly publicised crimes, Northants Police has issued its advice on thinking about others when we are out and about to make them feel safe.

Keep your distance

When walking behind someone, particularly at night, try to leave a good amount of distance between yourself and the person ahead of you. Remember that the closer you are, the more threatening you might seem.

Don't stare

A stranger staring at you can be intimidating and unsettling. Focus on something else to show you're not a threat. Look out of the window, message a friend, or read a book or newspaper.

Cross the road

If you're out for an evening run, or walk and see someone walking ahead, cross the road, call out to let them know you're about to run by them or make sure to leave a good amount of space when you pass them.

Keep comments to yourself

What you might think of as just a bit of fun, or flattery, can be insulting, upsetting or even scary to someone else. Keep any comments or opinions to yourself.

Keep your friends in line

If you're in a group of people where someone is harassing another person on the street, try to calm the situation.

Be an active bystander

If you notice someone is uncomfortable with another person's behaviour, show your support by being an active bystander. It can be as simple as standing between a person and their harasser to block their line of sight. Ask that person if they need any help, and back up anyone else who is intervening.



New Councillor

Gary Spratt

I have been a resident of Brixworth for 23 years and my wife Sharon works in the village post office. I currently work for Northampton West Council as a library manager covering both Weston Favell and Hunsbury.

In my spare time, I am the assistant coach to both the junior and senior Northampton Saints Wheelchair Rugby team and also the Safeguarding Officer. This year I qualified as an international Table Rugby official and took part in this year's Quad Nations, the last tournament before Team GB headed off to win gold in this year's Paralympics.

When I have spare time I enjoy going to the Saints with my wife, as we are season ticket holders.



Full Council (Thursdays): 25 November, 16 December, 27 January

Media & Comms (Wednesdays): 8 December, 12 January, 9 February

Planning (Mondays): 29 November, 20 December, 10 January, 31 January

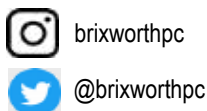
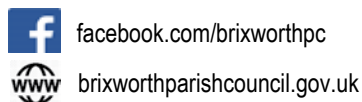
Surgery (Saturdays): 4 December, 8 January, 5 February

We are pleased to return to Parish Council Surgeries face-to-face in the foyer of the Library and Community Centre on the first Saturday morning of every month between 10 and 12. If you do not feel comfortable meeting in person, please contact the Parish Clerk on the details below.

Please check website and noticeboards to confirm dates and times.
Note: All meetings are held in the Library and Community Centre.
For further information please contact the Clerk—please note the new contact details for the Clerk.

Contact the Parish Clerk:

We are pleased to introduce our new Parish Clerk: Katrina Jones. If you want to contact the Parish Council please write to: The Parish Clerk, The Information Point, Brixworth Library and Community Centre, Spratton Road, Brixworth NN6 9DS
 parish.clerk@brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
 Telephone: 07983 141786



Sandra Moxon
 Chairman



Jackie Bird
 Vice-Chairman



Tom Mitchell
 Chairman, Planning



Elaine Coe
 Chairman, Media & Communications



Barbara Lunnon



Christine Ware



Frances Peacock



Gary Spratt



Ian Barrett



James Collyer



Kevin Parker



Lynn Compton



Neal Brown



Tony Nixon



Katrina Jones
 Parish Clerk





BRIXWORTH MATTERS

 **YouTube** Brixworth Community Church
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1188559)

As I write this, my daughter has just tested positive for Covid and of course is self-isolating. She has recently turned 13. Most of her friends at school have recently had the virus which appears to be going through the secondary schools rapidly.

It is the reminder that even though the nation has gone through an amazing vaccination programme, there is still a long way to go if we are to well and truly come out the other side of this pandemic.

So, what to say in such circumstances? What words of encouragement can be offered particularly in the run up to Christmas?

Well, one of the mind blowing miracles about the first Christmas story is the fact that when Jesus was born in a stable outside Bethlehem 2000 years or so ago, God himself was being born into this world. Yes, the Baby Jesus was the living God himself!!

Now, within the weakness of the human mind, there are some things about God that remain in part a great mystery. Jesus as a baby and later as grown a up man being both fully God and fully human is one such mystery and sometimes leaves us with more questions than answers. Yet we can all know this for certain: God is not a distant God and not aloof from our circumstances. But in Jesus, has come close to us, to be one of us and in doing so, knows and relates to all that we go through as human beings. Remember too, Jesus came during the time of leprosy, a deadly disease – so God knows all about viruses that cause great fear, anxiety and isolation.

So this Christmas know that in Jesus, God has shown that he knows us and loves us. However, because of Jesus death and resurrection has made it possible for us all to know Him and love Him forever. After-all, that is why he came. Yes Jesus came so we, through faith, can be close friends with the living God himself forever! I hope this will be an encouragement to you.

Take care, have a great and safe Christmas, and may God bless you throughout next year.

Andy

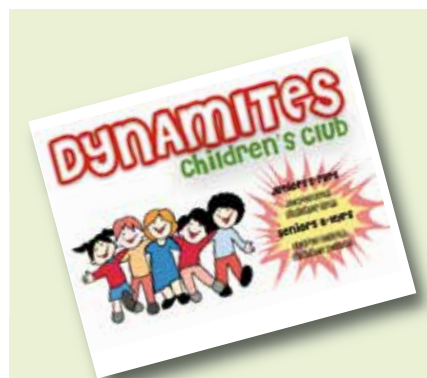


Contact Andy Lloyd-Williams on
07958 604961



After months of zoom meetings and outdoor activities it has been exciting that since September TNT (Truth n Teenagers) have been able to meet once again in the hall at the Community Centre on Tuesday evenings 7.30 - 9pm, in term time.

We are a group of teenagers aged 11years and upwards. Throughout the year we endeavour to have a varied and interesting programme. Through quizzes, games, crafts, discussions, testimonies and Bible study we encourage them to know more about the Christian way of life. Each term we arrange a social event which may include a trip to Boost, laser Zone, Bowling, Cycling or the Aqua Park and also events held at Kings Park to which friends are warmly invited.



Good news for parents of primary school age! Dynamites Children's club re-opened on the 12th November.

This is a great little club run by members of Brixworth Community Church for children of the village to have good safe fun while learning about Jesus.

Please speak to Mark our community worker on Brixworth 882832 to find out more.



It seems so strange to think that our mums and tots group Olive Shoots along with so many others has been shut down due to Covid restrictions. And now it almost seems that we had never closed, with a whole bunch of new mums with babies that had not been able to interact with other children because of the pandemic. Its great to see the continued support of child minders, carers and parents alike still coming to this fun group. Our hope has always been to provide a relaxed and happy environment for all that come. If you haven't tried us, then we would love to see you. We are open every Thursday morning (term time) starting at 10am At the Library and Community Centre, in the hall above The Olive Branch Coffee Shop



Return of the Outdoor Christmas Nativity 2021

Sunday 19th December at 4 p.m.

Come and join us as we celebrate and act out the Christmas Story. We hold it outside the Library and Community Centre,

If the weather is inclement we will be holding the Nativity at the School at the same time.



Christmas Day at Brixworth Community Church

Be sure of getting your Christmas Day off to the best start! Service starts at 10:30am. and finishes at 11:15am. We celebrate together the birth of Jesus with carols, readings and an opportunity for the children (and one or two parents no dough!) to show off their presents. A warm welcome awaits.



The Olive Branch Christmas - New Year


The Olive Branch will be closed Wednesday 22nd December and RE OPENS on Tuesday 4th January 2022

Brixworth Community Church Weekly Events

Sunday:	10:30 – 11:45	Main Service of Worship (Brixworth School) (including Junior Church and Creche)
Monday:	19:30 – 21:00	Prayer Meeting in the Olive Branch
Tuesday:	19:30 – 21:00	TNT – for Teenagers*
Wednesday:	13:30 – 15:00 19:30 – 21:00	Home study Group Home study Groups
Thursday:	10:00 – 11:30 19:45 – 21:30	Olive Shoots – a Mums & Tots group* Home study Group
Friday:	17:00 – 18:00 18:15 – 19:15	Dynamites Children's Club – age 5-7 years* Dynamites Children's Club – age 8-11*

(*held at the Library & Community Centre)

You will always receive a very warm welcome at any of our Services on a Sunday at 10:30, at the school. As we share together in worship, we also provide a Junior Church for children of all ages. Come and join us!

If you would like to know more about anything in Brixworth Matters or to know more about the Christian Faith, then phone Andy on 07958 604961  Brixworth Community Church

The Olive Branch

Brixworth Community Church Coffee Shop. Our village Community Coffee Shop and the place to meet, be kept informed of village life and be sure of a warm welcome. Home of the All Day Brixworth Breakfast!

Mon - Thur 10-3.00, Fri 9.30-2.30, Saturday 9.30-1.00

Pensioners Luncheon Club Wed 12 noon*
*(membership currently full ask to be added to waiting list)

The Olive Branch,
Library & Community Centre,
Spratton Road, Tel 889030

Run by volunteers this non-profit making venture has a welcoming atmosphere.





All Saints', Brixworth

"Good News for our Community"

www.brixworthchurch.org



SCAN ME

TRY US OUT... ON YOUTUBE

It has never been easier to see what church is like. You might be pleasantly surprised. Why not check us out? Search YouTube for 'Brixworth and Holcot Churches' ...or just come along any Sunday, at 10:30am.

Outdoor Christmas Tree Festival

Sat 11th Dec, 4-6pm.
& Sun 12th Dec, 12-6pm.

With Christmas Market Stalls Open
and Mulled Wine Served, 4-6pm



"There will be no charge either for bringing a tree or for entry, but donations will be accepted for local charities and church work."

To display a tree, please contact Roger on 01604 307614



Make Your Own Christingle
In Church on the Sunday, 4-6pm

Other Christmas Services

14th (6-8pm)

16th (7pm)

19th (7pm)

24th (2pm)

24th (11:15pm)

25th (10:30am)

- Carol Singing around the Village

- Carol Singing around the Beacon

- Indoor Carol Service

(with Abington Wind Band & Choir)

- Interactive Nativity (Crib) Service

- Midnight Communion

- Christmas Morning Celebration



CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

Get ready for winter sailing

As Alfred Wainwright once said: "There's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing." Therefore, members of Northampton Sailing Club are getting out their winter wetsuits, drysuits and thermals for the winter watersports season.

Northampton Sailing Club is one of the few clubs in the area that offers sailing and watersports all year round. The stronger winds make for exciting windsurfing, wingfoiling and sailing, while calm days are beautiful for paddleboarding and kayaking. Pitsford Water is a wonderful place to be and has a special magic at this time year.

Winter membership (from November 2021 to end of February 2022) is available for only £80 so you can take part in some exciting racing series or just enjoy being out on the water. And if you join for the winter, you can get a £50 off a full membership next year.

After sailing on a Sunday, you can also enjoy a fabulous Sunday lunch cooked by Martin in the galley. The club also hosts open meetings and runs social events: The bonfire party, Christmas dinner and kids' Christmas party are always very popular.

And if you're looking for that unusual Christmas present for someone who's always wanted to have a go at watersports, we have the answer! Gift vouchers are available for taster or coaching sessions in paddleboarding, windsurfing and sailing. They can also be spent on RYA (Royal Yachting Association) courses in sailing and windsurfing - all on your doorstep!



For more information go to www.northamptonsailingclub.org or email info@northamptonsailingclub.org

Best wishes for 2022 from all of us at Northampton Sailing Club – Discover the water and enjoy it!

Short Mat Bowls reopens with Target Night

Brixworth Short Mat Bowls was really pleased to reopen in June and meet at Brixworth Centre in Church Street each Friday afternoon at 2:30 and evening at 7:30. The club continue to follow Government Covid 19 guidelines and there have to date been no cases of Covid infections linked to the club.

Our first fun competition since re-opening has been "Target Night" which was held on Friday 23rd October and was a great success. Mike Nice took first prize with a score of 20 and in second place was Graham Olney with a credible score of 14. The event was all the better with the added bonus of a lovely fish and chip supper from Brixworth Fish Bar which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



The Electric Winder recently purchased has been a great success, making the laying and storing of the bowls mats easier for all club members.

We really look forward to many more social events at the club. The next being the internal competition presentation evening planned for the 12th November with an afternoon tea.

If anyone is interested in trying bowls contact Jenny (Chair) on 07522 559673 or email brixworthbowlsclub@hotmail.com You can be sure of a very warm welcome. – Chrissie Collins

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Football: It's good to be back

Brixworth's footballers are really happy to be back after what feels like an eternity of start/stop football for both the Brixworth Seniors and Juniors football clubs.

Club officials would like to thank all players, parents and coaches for their patience over the past 18 months.

Government legislation meant coaches had to complete many onerous forms every time they were able to play. Each time it was a few months playing, stopping then restarting, and players missed out on many matches and cup opportunities.

Special thoughts go out to John Sullivan and Adam Haycock's u18s team who had what looked like an extremely successful and special 20/21 season in the making. The team were not only top of the A-League but they had also reached a semi-final and a quarter-final in both county cups where they were favourites to reach the League Cup final. But all hopes were shattered when the dreaded Covid lockdown hit once again. The district league and the Northants FA brought all cups and leagues to a sudden close. Sadly, it was their last season in the juniors and the team missed out on what would surely have been a historic season in Brixworth Juniors club history.

A couple of months of later, the 21/22 season began in earnest in September and even though Brixworth Juniors has fewer teams than in previous years it's still in the top five largest clubs in the county



The girls team (pictured, left), which is now in its sixth season, is playing at u14s now and continues to thrive as more girls want to play football. The club is always on the lookout for new coaches to come forward and help out in this exceptionally rewarding role.

We also loved seeing a closer relationship developing between the u18s Juniors teams and the Men's Senior team (pictured, above) as more Juniors players have started to play for the Mens. Although the Men have faced a hard time on the pitch they still play and stay together playing Division 2 football in the Combination league. There is however a real shortage of referees at the moment, despite the valiant efforts of some very senior refs still doing their bit.

Football will continue to be loved in our village and with many more years ahead of us. We thank Central Sports again for the use of their facilities and for sponsoring the Juniors coaches new polo shirts this season. We can all be sure that they will remain a great advocate for all of Brixworth sports clubs in the future.

A special mention to the Parish Council who helped put together a structured payment/fee system. This has been a huge help to the Seniors in particular.

Thanks to the help of the volunteers, who white line the pitches every week, they look very well kept. All the clubs appreciate the costs of keeping these well-maintained to give them extra life given the amount of the public use and sport played on them. So a huge thank you to those councillors who love to support and see sport played in the village across all of the recreation grounds.

Brixworth footballers still seek their own piece of land to call home but whilst this appears to be a way off, we always look forward to play at The Ashway and St David's Playing Fields which are the envy of the other local village teams who come here. – Rob Kelly



with 275 players. Both u18s teams are playing top-flight division 1 football and a large minis section. The minis is the lifeblood of the club so it's great to see little girls and boys playing at St David's on a Sunday morning again...

